

ROBIN FRIDAY IS THE DANGER MAN UP FRONT

STEVE DEATH (goalkeeper): At 5ft 7ins Steve is the smallest 'keeper in the Football League, but he is unquestionably one of the best in the lower divisions. A former England schools international, he became Reading's record signing in September, 1970, when they paid West Ham £20,000 for him. Death, who has made over 300 appearances for Reading, was chosen in the P.F.A. Fourth Division select side three seasons ago.

JOHN TURNER (goalkeeper): Although John has only made 19 Football League appearances, he has represented no fewer than six clubs. He started with Derby County, before joining Reading for £2,500 in the summer of 1975, having been loaned out to Doncaster, Brighton, Peterborough and Huddersfield during 1974-5. Last season he played in the final 14 games in Reading's successful Fourth Division promotion campaign. A North-Easterner, John was married last month.

GARY PETERS (full-back): Another local boy in the Reading side — but one they almost let get away. Bracknell-based Gary was an apprentice with Aldershot, and Reading only signed him — for £2,500 — from Southern League Guildford and Dorking, after the Hampshire club had released him. He also enjoys playing as a striker, and in the first game of his career up front at Darlington last season, scored the only goal of the match after just five minutes.

STEWART HENDERSON (full-back): Scotsman Stewart started his career with Chelsea but failed to make the first team at Stamford Bridge before moving to Brighton. After eight years at the Goldstone Ground, Reading snapped him up on a free transfer four seasons ago. Principally a full-back Stewart has switched to midfield with some success — in his first-ever game in that position, at Bradford City, he scored twice in ten minutes.

DAVE MORELINE (defender): Londoner Dave joined Reading from Fulham, his only other club, in the summer of 1974 for £3,000. He is primarily a left-back, but has also given a good account of himself both in the centre of the back-four and in a ball-winning midfield role. An extremely tough tackler, Dave was one of the most consistent players in last season's promotion triumph.

TOMMY YOULDEN (defender): Another Londoner,

Tommy is in his fifth season at Elm Park after doing four years service at Arsenal and a similar spell at Portsmouth, to whom Reading paid £4,500 for him. This six-foot centre-back is currently on the transfer list at his own request at a fee of £10,000.

STEVE HETZKE (centre-back): A very tall young defender with a great deal of potential, Steve is now on the open-to-offers list at his own request. One of Reading's few home-bred players he was signed straight from school in nearby Newbury six years ago and graduated to the first team through the Elm Park youth side.

PAUL BENNETT (centre-half): Tough guy Paul was Reading's only close-season signing this year to bolster their promotion side in Division Three, moving from Southampton in July for £8,000. He was a member of Saints' FA Cup winning squad in May, although he didn't make the final side at Wembley. Paul, who has had plenty of First Division experience, has proved a shrewd buy so far.

BRUCE STUCKEY (midfield): Like Cumming, converted from an orthodox winger to a midfielder, Bruce also cost Reading a £10,000 transfer fee when he moved from Torquay three seasons ago following spells with Exeter and Sunderland. West countryman Bruce, a talented musician, has since been back to Torquay on a month's loan, but has now re-established himself in the Reading side.

BRYAN CARNABY (midfield): Bryan finally settled at Reading six seasons ago after countless unsuccessful efforts to establish himself with other clubs. He played for two years in South Africa before Reading at last offered him a contract. Bryan scored on his league debut, but doesn't get many goals as his main job is the team's ball-winner in the middle of the park. However, he did score the one which clinched promotion at Cambridge in April.

GORDON CUMMING (midfield): Reading's club captain, Gordon is also their longest serving player, having joined from Arsenal in September, 1969 for a fee of £10,000. A Scotsman, Gordon had the satisfaction of leading Reading to promotion last term after playing in the side which was relegated six seasons previously.

EAMONN DUNPHY (midfield): A former Eire international who won 23 caps for his country, Eamonn was the

only ever-present in Reading's promotion side after joining on a free transfer from Charlton at the start of last season. A distinguished writer who recently had his first book published, Dunphy has also played for Manchester United, York City and Millwall, and has now been given a free transfer by Reading.

ROBIN FRIDAY (striker): Reading's top scorer and their fans' "player of the year" for the last two seasons, Robin is now on the transfer list at his own request. He wants a higher grade of football — and Reading want about £50,000 for him. He came to Reading three seasons ago as an amateur, having played for Walthamstow Avenue and Hayes in the Isthmian League.

JOHN MURRAY (striker): Reading's leading scorer this season, "Minty" was involved in his fourth promotion campaign last year. He also went up with all his previous clubs — Burnley, Blackpool and Bury — and has played in all four divisions of the Football League. A Geordie whose transfer from Bury two seasons ago cost £4,000, John made one appearance as a substitute for England under 23's.

RAY HIRON (striker): At 32 the elder statesman of the Reading team. Ray came to Elm Park last season after 11 years in the Portsmouth attack. When Pompey gave him a "free" they went straight down while Reading gained promotion with Ray a regular member of the side. He has scored over 120 Football League goals and is nearing 400 League appearances.

DENNIS NELSON (striker): The fourth player in the Reading squad currently transfer-listed at his own request, Dennis and his family want a move back to the North. He only joined Reading in March when Crewe sold him for £10,000, just in time to help them clinch promotion. An Edinburgh man, Dennis played for Hibernian and Dunfermline north of the border.

MICK HOLLIS (striker): An experienced goal-getter now with his fifth League club, Mick just beat the transfer deadline in March when Stockport sold him to Reading for £4,000. Previously with Leicester, Barrow and Chester, Mick still lives just outside Chester a few miles over the Welsh border.